

# WELCOME



# Heroin: A Community Crisis

**Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH**  
**Erie County Commissioner of Health**



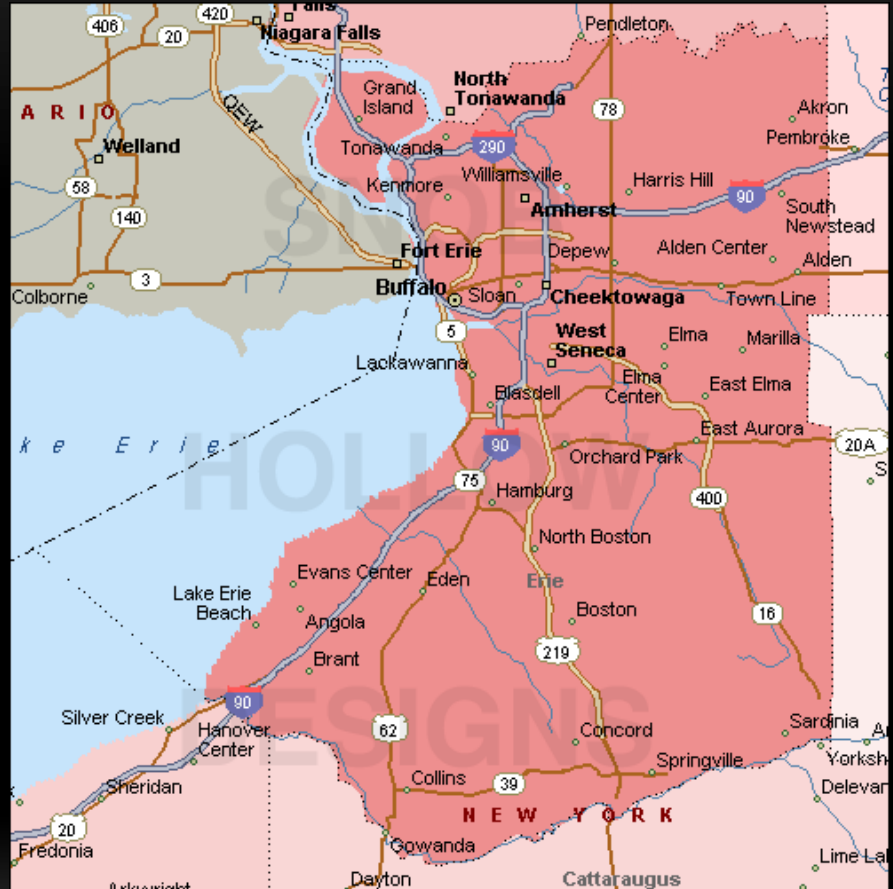
**ERIE COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT**  
**OF HEALTH**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# WHY ARE WE HERE?

- National Crisis
- Not just Western New York



## Heroin Deaths in Pittsburgh a Crisis

Added by Juana Poareo on January 26, 2014.

Saved under Drugs and Alcohol, Health, Juanita Poareo, U.S.

Tags: drug overdose, heroin



## N.J. heroin crisis: Christie battles against overdose



New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, left, and acting Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Nix, right, during a roundtable discussion about Christie's Narcan pilot initiative. (Andrew Mills/The Star-Ledger)

By [James Queally/The Star-Ledger](#)  
Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on April 02, 2014 at 6:03 PM, updated April 02, 2014 at 9:12 PM

**BRICK** — Police officers and first responders in Ocean and Monmouth counties will begin carrying naloxone, a drug that can counter the effects of an opiate overdose, Gov. Chris Christie said today as New Jersey continues its years-long battle against a heroin and prescription pill epidemic that has resulted in hundreds of deaths.

Every police officer in the two counties will be carrying the drug within 45 days, officials said.

"The war on drugs has failed," Christie said during a press conference in Brick Township to announce the launch of the program. "Well-intentioned, conceived out of the hope that it could work, but incarcerating people ... has been an abject failure."

Naloxone is an aerosol spray that blocks the body's opiate receptors, countering the

## A Call to Arms on a Vermont Heroin Epidemic

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE FEB. 27, 2014

RUTLAND, Vt. — Block by block, this city in central Vermont has been fighting a heroin epidemic so entrenched that it has confounded all efforts to combat it.

On Cottage Street, the foot traffic is heavy in and out of No. 24 1/2, a red two-story cottage set back from the street, where visitors stay less than a minute.

"We know what they're doing in there," Victoria DeLong, a longtime neighbor, said of the house, which the police say is owned by an absentee landlord and is a haven for drug dealers. "It's like shopping at the Grand Union," Ms. DeLong said. "In and out, in and out."

Long visible at the street level in towns and cities across the country, the extent of the opiate scourge in rural Vermont burst into the national consciousness last month, when Gov. Peter Shumlin [devoted his entire State of the State message](#) to what he said was a "full-blown heroin crisis." Much of New England is now also reporting record overdoses and deaths.

For some communities just starting to reckon with drugs, Mr. Shumlin's words were a call to arms; for [Rutland](#), they offered a sense of solidarity as this city of 17,000 moves ahead with efforts to help reclaim its



Victoria DeLong of Rutland, Vt., pointing out a house where drug dealing occurs. "We know what they're doing in there," she said. Cheryl Senter for The New York Times

### RELATED COVERAGE



[In Annual Speech, Vermont Governor Shifts Focus to Drug Abuse](#)

of Cuyahoga County's Alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services board.

Frontline, which is the county's crisis call center, normally averages 25 calls a month for heroin help. In March, it received 258 heroin calls.

"It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor," said Marny Kaufmann, a crisis intervention specialist at Frontline. "If doesn't matter what your background is, race, religion, it [heroin] is invading the whole community."

Frontline's number, 216-623-6888, is listed as the number to call for help in the county's campaign.

Kaufmann said, unlike before, she and her colleagues receive multiple phone calls a day from friends and relatives of addicts and even addicts themselves.

"They [callers] are at a point where the drug has ruined their lives," added Kaufmann. "They've either become homeless, they've lost all of their relationships in their lives."

The number of addicts calling the center has dramatically increased in the wake of the campaign. In March,



kmov.com  
ST. LOUIS

Search

Find stories, photos and video

Go



Saint Louis, MO | 7-Day | Interactive Radars

57° Heavy Thunderstorms

Home News Weather Traffic Sports Entertainment Video Community Marketplace Your News Auto Great Day On TV Login  
Local Investigates This Morning Crime Off Beat Slideshows National World Politics Business Consumer Health & Wellness Technology

LOW KMOV



RSS Feeds Special Offers Newsletters

Set Home Page Eye on STL

Live Video

Search NBCNews.com


Print | Font: A A + -

number of calls for help dealing with heroin has increased late last year.

Bill Denihan, the executive director of Cuyahoga County's Alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services board.

# It's a "CITY" Problem...

	GENDER	EVER AGE USED HEROIN?	HAVE YOU EVER SHARED NEEDLES?	HIGH SCHOOL	HAVE YOU UNDERGONE TREATMENT FOR DRUG USE?	HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HOMELESS?
26	FEMALE	YES	YES	ANGOLA	SUBOXONE	STAYING WITH FRIENDS
30	MALE	YES	YES	ANGOLA	FIRST TIME PARENTS MADE HIM GO, NEXT TIME DRUGCOURT	STAYS WITH MOTHER
21	FEMALE	NO	N/A	BENNETT	NO	NO
22	FEMALE	YES	NO	BUFFALO SEMINARY		
25	FEMALE	YES	YES	CASADAGA	DRUG COURT	WITH FRIENDS FOR NOW, TRYING TO GET A JOB AND OWN APARTMENT
26	MALE	YES	YES	CASADAGA	TWICE, PARENTS MADE HIM	YES, CURRENTLY
22	FEMALE	NO	N/A	CITY HONORS	NO	NO
						NOW, MOTHER IS LIVING WITH AUNT WHO WON'T ALLOW HIM TO LIVE THERE



27	MALE	YES	YES	LANCASTER	2 TIMES, ONCE AT RENAISSANCE PARENTS FORCED, 1 AT ECMC - DRUG COURT	PARENTS THREW OUT OF HOUSE IN 2006, LOST JOB LAST YEAR
27	FEMALE	YES	YES	LANCASTER	2x, NO METHADONE, DRUG COURT	LIVES WITH BOYFRIEND
27	FEMALE	YES	YES	LANCASTER		
30	MALE	YES	YES	LANCASTER	PARENTS MADE HIM/ COURT ORDERED	
19	FEMALE	NO	N/A	MARYVALE	NONE	HOME
28	FEMALE	YES	YES	MARYVALE	HIT ROCK BOTTOM	
30	FEMALE	YES	YES	MOUNT MERCY	COURT ORDERED	

CLARENCE

DETOX 5 TIMES,  
REHAB 3 TIMES



It's your  
neighbor,  
your child,  
your  
co-worker...  
not just  
celebrities

**2 WGRZ.COM**  
ON YOUR SIDE A GANNETT COMPANY

Search

HOME WEATHER 39° LOCAL NATION NOW TRAFFIC SPORTS FEATURES ABOUT

## Painkiller Addictions Linked to Heroin



REPORTS: SYRINGES & HEROIN FOUND IN HOFFMAN'S APT.  
HEROIN UPTICK MEDICAL MARIJUANA HUD MONEY

Celebrity Death Puts Spotlight on Heroin Use

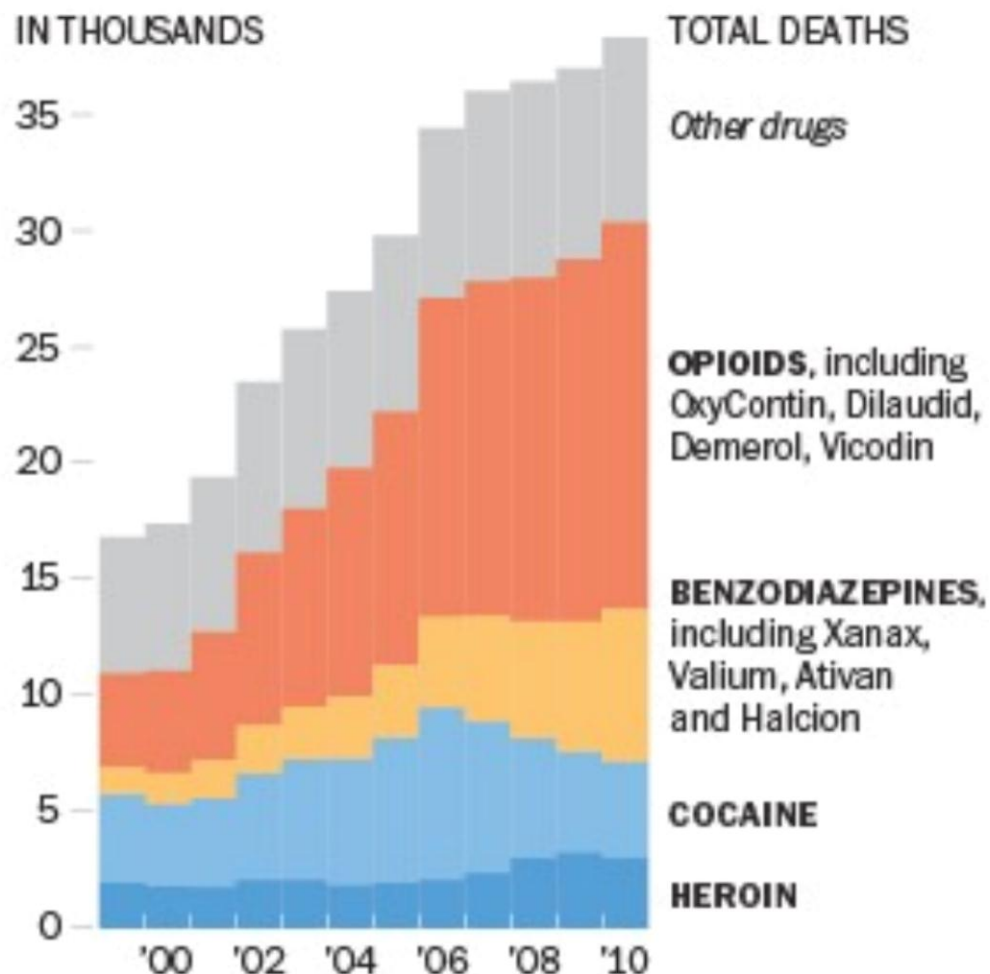
Daniel Spewak, WGRZ 11:57 p.m. EST February 3, 2014

*The effort to curb prescription drug abuse may have an unintended consequence.*

MORE NEWS STORIES

# Deaths from drug overdose

Pharmaceutical painkillers and tranquilizers are responsible for about 60 percent of drug poisoning deaths.



Source: CDC | Patterson Clark - The Washington Post

## THE BUFFALO NEWS

[City & Region](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#)

Opinion

## Communities show overdose antidote

on February 26, 2014 - 12:01 AM

Tweet

## THE BUFFALO NEWS

[City & Region](#) [Sports](#) [Busin](#)

City &amp; Region

## Police pressing t

*Recent overdoses show*

 By Lou Michel | News Staff Reporter  
on February 4, 2014 - 7:27 PM, updated 1

Tweet

Over the last week, SWAT teams ha authorities try to stop the flow of her seven deaths among drug addicts in

Two recent incidents illustrate the oc

A 26-year-old Lancaster mother ove and three other adults in the residen

When paramedics arrived Tuesday a resuscitation and administered an ai County Medical Center and is expect

A man living on Pulaski Street in Bu condition Tuesday afternoon from a

Federal prosecutors and law enforce expected to announce they have made a major dent in the sale of heroin and other drug additives contributing to the spate of fatal overdoses.

The busts come three days after an apparent heroin overdose claimed the life of Academy Award-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman in New York City, which provided the country with a shocking wake-up call to the dangers of opiates.

Authorities say it is no coincidence heroin, often mixed with the synthetic, high-powered painkiller fentanyl, is becoming more common at the same time a national effort to clamp

## OPINION

## THE BUFFALO NEWS

[City & Region](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Opinion](#) [Life & Arts](#) [Gusto](#) [Deaths](#)

City &amp; Region

## Heroin's deadly highs: Recent deaths underscore growing peril for users



Sterling, 22, is a recovering heroin addict who has been clean for two years. Several of his acquaintances have died of overdoses since he became addicted at age 14. Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News

By Lou Michel | News Staff Reporter

major dent in the sale of heroin and other drug additives contributing to the spate of fatal overdoses.

### Obituaries

-  Geraldine R. B. gardener, volu
-  Elmer A. Cove clothing store
-  Marco A. Prezioso, deliv to-door

## THE BUFFALO NEWS

## CITY &amp; REGION

[City & Region](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Opinion](#) [Life & Arts](#) [Gusto](#) [Deaths](#)

SEARCH

### CALENDAR

#### City & Region Events

Wed. 4/2: "Eye Symphony,"

Wed. 4/2: "Opposite of Ekphrasis,"

Wed. 4/2: "Motion,"

Wed. 4/2: "A Matter of Perspective"

Wed. 4/2: "Mortality Tantrums,"

Wed. 4/2: "Millie Chen: The Miseries &amp; Vengeance Wallpapers,"

Wed. 4/2: "American Scenes from the Seventies,"

Wed. 4/2: "An Olio,"

Wed. 4/2: "Anselm Kiefer: Beyond Landscape,"

Wed. 4/2: "Melt,"

Submit an event

More events »

### STAY INFORMED



#### Alerts

Text message notifications of news happening now.

Sign up

A memorial is growing outside the Manhattan building where actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died of an apparent drug overdose. (New York Times)

on February 4, 2014 - 12:01 AM, updated February 4, 2014 at 12:28 AM

SEARCH

### DAR

#### & Region Events

/2: "Eye Symphony,"

/2: "Opposite of Ekphrasis,"

/2: "Motion,"

/2: "A Matter of Perspective"

/2: "Mortality Tantrums,"

/2: "Millie Chen: The Miseries &amp; noce Wallpapers,"

/2: "American Scenes from the es,"

SEARCH

## to painkillers

### INFORMED

#### Alerts

Text message notifications of news happening now.

Sign up

#### Newsletters

The top stories from your favorite sections delivered to your inbox.

Sign up

### DINGSTORIES

TODAY | THIS WEEK

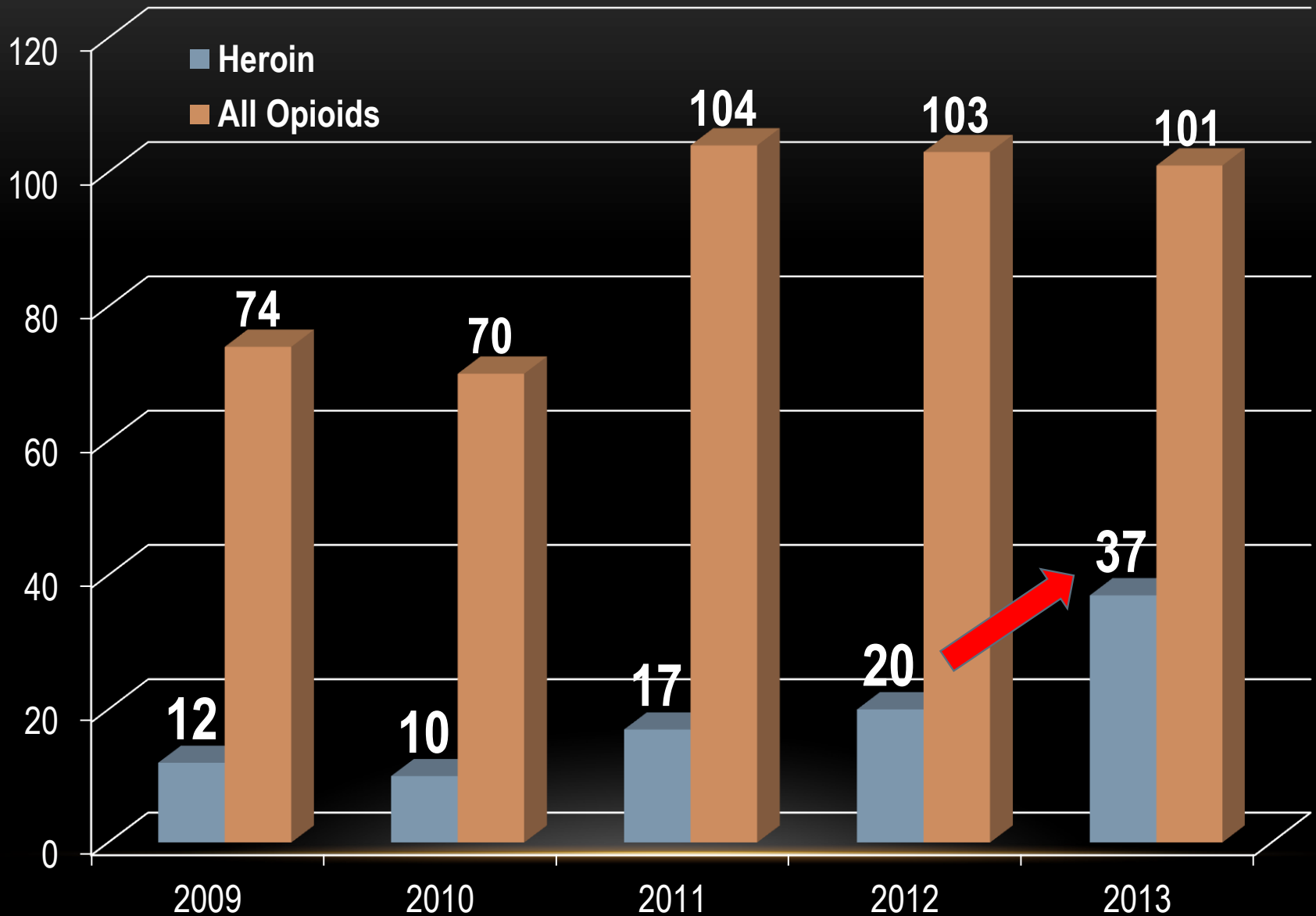
Proposals to kill the Moreland commission, enact weak campaign finance reforms are insufficient

- With the new state budget, Cuomo has delivered on the "Buffalo Billion"
- Remember the 60s? Get ready - the temperature today is predicted to reach into the happy zone

### MOST COMMENTED






# ERIE COUNTY OPIOID OVERDOSES 2009-2013



SOURCE: EC MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE 3/31/14

# ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- Prevention of Overdose Deaths

Stay Connected:    

[Subscribe to Email Newsletters & Alerts](#) [Advertise with Us](#)

[Home](#) [NEWS](#) [WEATHER](#) [SPORTS](#) [NEWS LINKS](#) [GOOD THINGS](#) [AM BUFFALO](#)

## Heroin ODs Increasing in Western New York

February 3, 2014  
By Jill Perkins

[Tweet](#)

Buffalo, N.Y. (WKBW-TV) "This is a problem in our community and we can't run away from it anymore," said Dr. Gale Burstein, Commissioner of Health for Erie County.

Burstein says an increase in deadly heroin overdoses is raising concerns in Western New York, with a significant increase from 2012 to 2013.

"These are illegal substances, they're not regulated. People have no idea what they're purchasing."

The highly addictive and potent drug, Burstein says is easy to get your hands on. But lately, an increase in heroin laced with fentanyl is making an appearance in our area and can cause quicker, more lethal highs.

"People who are addicted to heroin, many of them know that there is a risk of over-dosing with fentanyl that's much higher than just with heroin alone. But they think, well you know, that only happens to other people, it's not gonna happen to me, I'm not gonna use a lot, I'll be safe. And then we're seeing people die."

Just last month, two people died from heroin overdoses at the Motel 6 in Lancaster. Just across the state line, more than 20 people died from a deadly heroin mix in Pennsylvania, prompting Livingston County Sheriff Thomas Dougherty, concerned that the drugs might quickly make their way to New York State to send out an advisory.

"Heroin is highly addictive and is a real dirty drug. A user never really knows what they are injecting or snorting, they take the drug dealers word on it. In all reality it could be any chemical agent or substance," said Sheriff Dougherty.



**Get stories in your inbox -  
Subscribe here**

**Next Article**  
Seneca Gaming Corporation Announces "Summer Rush" Concert Series

# ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- Prevent Transmission of Life-Threatening Diseases (Hepatitis C, HIV) through contact with blood by sharing needles



# ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- Public Education
- Raise Awareness
- Train First Responders in Use of Narcan (Naloxone)



# ESAP Project

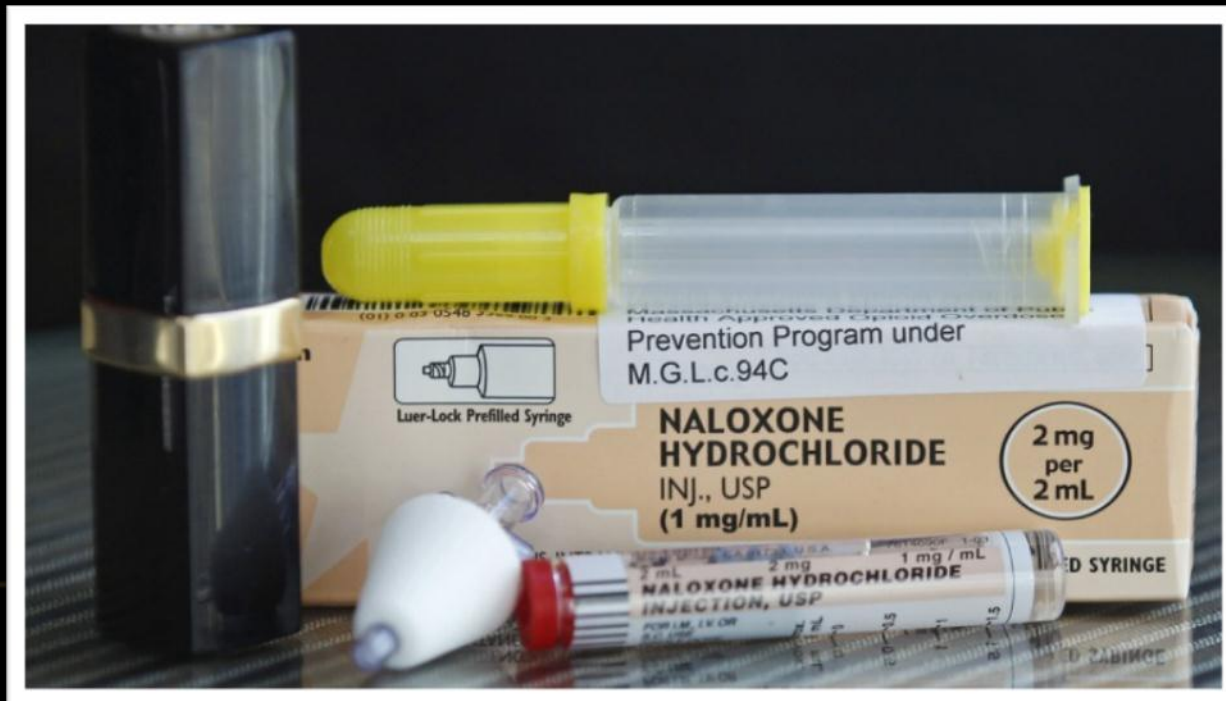
- Clean Needles
- Disposal of Used Needles
- Safely Discard Unneeded & Unused Medications
- Kiosks throughout Erie County





# OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

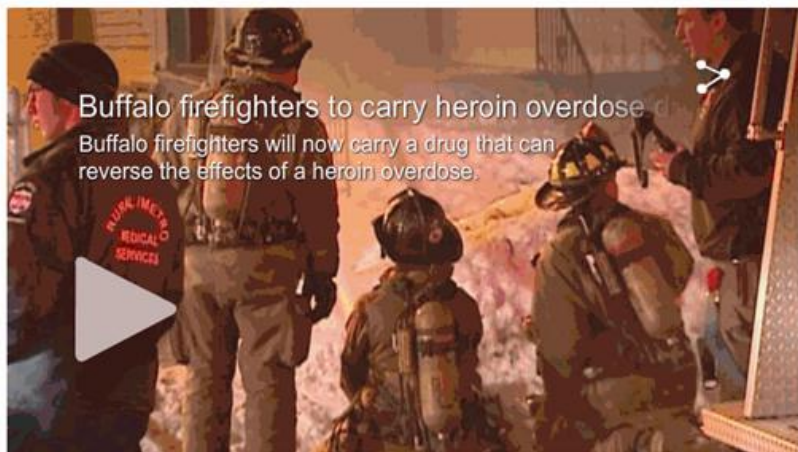
- Train local police agencies in:
  - How to identify potential overdose victim
  - Administration of Narcan (Naloxone)
  - Appropriate Reporting of Utilization of Narcan



## Buffalo firefighters to carry heroin overdose drug

By News 4 Digital Staff

Published: Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 6:22 pm



### Buffalo firefighters to carry heroin overdose drug

Buffalo firefighters will now carry a drug that can reverse the effects of a heroin overdose.

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (WIVB)** – Buffalo firefighters will now carry a drug that can reverse the effects of a heroin overdose.

Mayor Byron Brown announced Wednesday that firefighters will be trained on how to use narcan, a drug that can be administered through a nasal spray and reverses the effects of a heroin overdose.

Buffalo Police are already carrying the potentially life-saving drug.

Heroin overdoses in Erie County increased 45-percent from 2011 to 2012.

## THE BUFFALO NEWS

# CITY & REGION

City & Region Sports Business Opinion Life & Arts Gusto Deaths

SEARCH

City & Region

## Buffalo police officers to carry heroin antidote

*Officers receive training in administering Narcan*



One of the Buffalo Police Department's new police cruisers was unveiled during Mayor Byron W. Brown's State of the City speech Friday. Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News

### CALENDAR

#### Buffalo Events

Thu. 4/3: "Whitherward This Wonder,"

Thu. 4/3: "The Trojan Women"

Thu. 4/3: "A View from the Bridge"

Thu. 4/3: "Anselm Kiefer: Beyond Landscape,"

Thu. 4/3: "The Simple Life,"

Thu. 4/3: "The Life and Times of Cleves,"

Thu. 4/3: "The Broadway Musical"

Thu. 4/3: "Betty's Ninth Annual Exhibition,"

Thu. 4/3: "Biological Region"

Thu. 4/3: "Star Spangled Nation"

Submit an event

# HEROIN SUMMIT GOALS

- Facilitate communication & cooperation across agencies & organizations that may not routinely interact
- Participants represent leadership from organizations that play a role in providing a continuum of services to persons with addictions & have the ability to create necessary changes
- Encourage open dialogue about size & scope of Heroin crisis



# **NYS Senate Task Force on Heroin & Opioid Addiction**

- **Recently announced initiative from NYS Senate**
  - **Listening Forums to be held in communities across state**
  - **Will solicit input from stakeholders & experts**
  - **State Senate to use information collected to develop recommendations for legislative action**
  - **Initial forum April 8<sup>th</sup> at Suffolk County Community College**
-

# HEROIN SUMMIT GOALS

- Create response from Erie County to the NYS Senate Task Force on Heroin & Opioid Addiction (aka “Listening Tour”)
- Develop collaborative action plan with next steps and scheduled follow up



The screenshot shows the New York State Senate website. The header includes the New York State Senate logo, a search bar, and navigation links for Senators, Committees, Initiatives, Legislation, Open Senate, About, Video, Newsroom, and Calendars. A 'Find My Senator' section with address and zip input fields is on the left. The main content area features a news article titled 'Senate Majority Coalition Announces Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction', dated March 17th, 2014. The article includes a photo of a group of people and text detailing the creation of the task force, its members, and its mission to address the heroin and opioid epidemic in New York State.

**NEW YORK STATE SENATE** LOGIN OR REGISTER

Search  GO

SENATORS COMMITTEES INITIATIVES LEGISLATION OPEN SENATE ABOUT VIDEO NEWSROOM CALENDARS

**FIND MY SENATOR:**

Your Street Address

Zip  **SUBMIT**

**SIGN UP FOR SENATE UPDATES:**

Email  

Zip  Mobile  **SUBMIT**

### Senate Majority Coalition Announces Joint Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction

Posted by Majority Press on Monday, March 17th, 2014  
RELATED ISSUES: [Controlled Substances](#), [Crime](#), [Drug](#), [Health](#)

**Put it** Working together to save lives and prevent tragedies

 **NYS SENATE ANNOUNCES:  
JOINT TASK FORCE ON HEROIN AND OPIOID ADDICTION**

Senate Majority Coalition Co-Leaders Dean Skelos and Jeffrey Klein today announced the creation of the Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction to examine the rise in use of heroin and other opioids in New York State and develop recommendations for treating and preventing addiction.

The bipartisan task force will be chaired by Senator Phil Boyle (R-C-I, Suffolk County), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. He will be joined by task force Vice-Chair David Carlucci (D-Rockland), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, and Vice-Chair Michael Nozzolio (R-C, Fayette), Chairman of the Senate Codes Committee. Members will examine the issues and solicit input from experts and other stakeholders about addiction prevention and treatment options, the rise in heroin and opioid use, and the potential for drug-related crimes and other negative community impacts. The task force will then develop recommendations which will be used to draft legislation to address the issues raised.

"I would like to thank Senators Skelos and Klein for creating this important task force to combat this epidemic in our communities," said Senator Phil Boyle. "The heroin epidemic has wrought horrible tragedies throughout our state and we need to act quickly and galvanize our efforts, funding programs and devising legislation to end this scourge. The primary mission of the Heroin and Opioid Task Force



...butter for his bread.)

## THE CONTINUING CRISIS

■ Following alarming reports, the Ohio attorney general's office began working with the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association in December to be vigilant for pet owners who might be commandeering their dogs' and cats' pain killers—for their own use. Worse, other reports suggested some owners were deliberately injuring their pets just to obtain the drugs.

■ The Super Bowl...